

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully solicited.

Claims 32-38 are now pending in this application, with Claim 32 being the sole independent claim. Claim 32 has been cosmetically amended herein to even more clearly recite the subject matter of the instant invention, and Claims 1-31 and 39-42 have been canceled. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 32-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as allegedly being non-enabled. While not conceding the propriety of this rejection, Applicants have nonetheless amended independent Claim 32 to more clearly recite that the grains are ignited from two ends, rather than from at least one end.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112, first paragraph rejection is requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 32-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,010,400 (Guay); and Claims 32, 36, and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,434,426 (Dapper). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 32 now recites, *inter alia*, selectively igniting the symmetrical individual solid propellant grains in the single grain assembly from the two ends in such a way that the individual solid propellant grains are consumed from the two ends in a manner that is substantially symmetrical with respect to the line.

The claims as amended now more clearly recite the structure of each individual solid propellant grain and make it clear that, in accordance with the methodology of the instant invention, the individual solid propellant grains of the single grain assembly are ignited from, and burn substantially symmetrically from, both ends. In contrast, each of the citations of record disclose, either expressly or inherently, that the grains burn from the centers of the grain assemblies outwardly.

In particular, Guay discloses an igniter (26) disposed near an end of the grain that ignites

the grain such that it burns from the inner surface (38) radially outwardly (col. 3, ll. 67-75). Moreover, Dapper discloses a combined igniter and propellant grain that, when utilized, would inherently result in the grains burning from the inner surfaces radially outwardly.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 rejections.

Conclusion

Based on the above, independent Claim 32 is patentable over the citations of record. The dependent claims are also deemed patentable for the reasons given above with respect to the independent claims and because each recite features which are patentable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

The other art of record is also not understood to disclose or suggest the inventive concept of the present invention as defined by the claims.

Hence, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

If for some reason Applicant has not paid a sufficient fee for this response, please consider this as authorization to charge Ingrassia, Fisher & Lorenz, Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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